

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF FEBRUARY 24th, 1939.

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor in the State House, on Friday, February 24th, 1939.

Present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor.
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller.
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

General Milton A. Reckord appeared before the Board in connection with the disposition of the question of the Annapolis Armory. The General submitted to the Board for its consideration a proposed bill for submission to the General Assembly amending Chapter 368 of the Acts of 1937, authorizing the State Office Building Loan, so that the Board of Public Works would have authority to make available to the Military Department for the expense of acquisition of a site in the City of Annapolis and for the erection thereon of a new Armory.

After considerable discussion of the matter, it was agreed that the Attorney General should revise the proposed bill to the extent that the amount to be made available for the purpose of acquiring a site and erecting an Armory in Annapolis would be not more than \$100,000, and further that provision should also be made in the bill to be submitted providing not more than \$70,000 for alterations and improvements to the Court of Appeals in connection with the taking over of that building by the Court for its work and for additional library facilities.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange with the Attorney General for the necessary bill to be introduced in the General Assembly to cover these changes.

Mr. Miles, State Treasurer, brought to the attention of the Board the fact that the State is the holder of certificates of stock in various banks, which it was necessary for the State to accept in settlement of obligations of various banks to the State during the banking difficulties in 1933, and that it would be well for the General Assembly to provide some authority for the Board of Public Works to dispose of these certificates of stock whenever it would appear to the advantage of the State to do so.

The Secretary was instructed to request the Attorney General to prepare the necessary bill to be introduced in the Legislature covering the situation.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a file of correspondence left with him by Doctor Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent of Education, including a bill for introduction in the Legislature, which had been prepared by the Attorney General, relative to an adjustment of some property at the Maryland State Teachers College, Towson, whereby there would be an exchange of one parcel of land, now a part of the land owned by the State, at that Institution, for another parcel of land owned by Howard O. Firor and Clara M. Firor, the State exchanging 1.1 acres of land for 0.60 acre of land, the land the State receiving being more valuable than the land to be conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. Firor. The whole arrangement adjusted the

property situation between the State and the Firors to the benefit of both parties.

The Board approved the proposal and recommended the introduction of the bill prepared by the Attorney General in the Legislature.

The Board approved an amendment, dated February 21st, 1939, to the Budget of the Cheltenham School for Boys, showing increases of \$899.00 in several items, with decreases of corresponding amount in other items.

The Board approved an amendment, dated February 17th, 1939, to the Budget of the State Teachers College, Salisbury, showing increase of \$900.00 in certain items and a corresponding decrease in another item.

The Board approved an amendment, dated February 8th, 1939, to the Budget of the University of Maryland, Princess Anne College, increasing Operating Expenses \$244.00 and decreasing Salaries and Wages \$244.00.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Messrs. Laurence Hall Fowler and Henry Powell Hopkins, Architects for the State Office Building, asking authority to change the covering on the several cornices running across the gables of the building and around the center of the rear from copper to slate at an additional cost of \$401.50.

The request was approved.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Messrs. Fowler and Hopkins, Architects for the new State Office Building, asking for authority to compensate the Davis Construction Company, in the amount of \$78.50, to cover the expense of cleaning out and filling an old surface well, which had been discovered on the site, and the additional cost of which is to be taken care of by the State under the contract for the building.

The Board approved the request.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Messrs. Fowler and Hopkins, Architects for the new State Office Building, dated February 14th, 1939, asking for authority for the expenditure of \$155.00 to cover the cost of lowering one of the areaways on the front of the building to accomodate the ventilating system in the transformer room and drain this to the surface water drainage at the rear of the building.

The request was approved.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Dr. Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent of Education, dated February 16th, 1939, requesting authority to transfer \$5,000 out of the Equalization Fund in the current fiscal year ending September 30th, 1939 for night school work for young men and young women, particularly between the ages of 18 and 30, in certain lines of work for which reimbursement is not available from the Federal George-Deen Fund.

The Board raised the question as to whether it would be permissible to amend the Budget to use money appropriated for the Equalization Fund for the purpose outlined. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Attorney General and ask whether it would be legal for the Board to approve the request.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a file of correspondence left with the Secretary by Colonel Harry C. Jones, State Employment Commissioner, relative to the case of Doctor Josef Gerstmann, a former employee of Springfield State Hospital.

The Board decided that since no request had been made by Doctor George H. Preston, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene or Springfield State Hospital relative to the approval of a new classification for Doctor Gerstmann there was no occasion to consider the question at this time.

The Board took up for consideration the work of pointing up the marble work in the State House, as set forth in estimate of Mr. Charles E. Gates, dated January 9th, 1939.

The Board approved the doing of this work with the understanding that it will be done by Mr. Gates on a time and material basis with the cost not to exceed \$372.00, the amount named in Mr. Gates' estimate of January 9th, 1939.

The Secretary submitted to the Board a deed left with him by the State Roads Commission for execution, covering the conveyance by the State of a certain parcel of land in connection with the Braddock Road in Allegany County which is not needed any further for the State Roads System.

The Board approved the execution of the deed and the members affixed their signatures thereto.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Mr. J. Milton Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Board of State Aid and Charities, asking permission to change the classification of a position vacant under Account No. 4 on the Budget of the Relief Assistance Division of the Board of State Aid and Charities from Senior Clerk to Assistant Junior Librarian, the salary remaining the same, namely \$900.00 per year.

*St. Dept. of
Public
welfare*

The request was approved.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Young and Crothers, Attorneys, relative to the lease the State has with the Whitaker Paper Company for space used by the Central Purchasing Bureau in the Whitaker Building, Baltimore. The lease expires September 30th, 1939 and under its terms it is necessary for the State to give six months notice in writing of its intention to terminate the lease. Messrs. Young and Crothers advised that because of the uncertainty as to future location of the Central Purchasing Bureau the lessors would be willing to change the requirement for notice from six months to four months, which would give the State until June 1st to decide its course in the matter of space for the Central Purchasing Bureau.

The Board was agreeable to the suggestion and instructed the Secretary to write the Attorneys for the lessors accordingly.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from William Martien & Company, Inc., Agent for the lessors of space used by the State Employment Commissioner and the State Bureau of Mines in the Baltimore Association of Commerce Building, aa Light Street, Baltimore. The leases terminate on September 30th, 1939.

The Agents stated they would be very glad to have the Board of Public Works consider the renewal of these tenancies effective from October 1st, 1939. The Board stated it would take up the matter in due time.

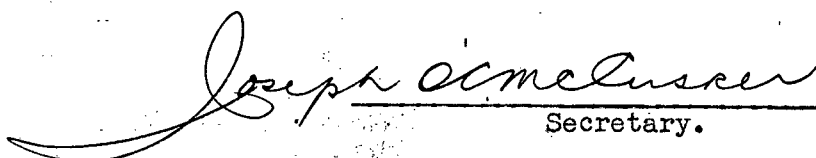
The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from Doctor Ira A. Darling, Superintendent, Springfield State Hospital, advising that the Sykesville Volunteer Fire Department is making an active drive to secure some financial assistance on account of its work in protecting the state properties at Springfield and Henryton.

The Board decided it was unable at this time to give any consideration to providing financial assistance for the company.

The Comptroller requested authority to charge off as uncollectible an item of \$6.99^{*} due from the late Mr. J. B. Bartholow of money advanced him for traveling expxneses while an employee of the State Comptroller's Office. *

The Board approved the request.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary.

* Mrs. J. B. Bartholow remitted the sum of \$6.99 in settlement of this item.